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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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IBM CORPORATION ROCHESTER IP LAW DEPT. 917 3605 HIGHWAY 52 NORTH ROCHESTER, MN 55901-7829			MAYO III, WILLIAM H	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/645,741	Applicant(s) MARROQUIN ET AL.	
	Examiner William H. Mayo III	Art Unit 2831	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-43 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-4, 9-11, 18, 27-28, 31, and 39-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Syed et al (Pat Num 6,545,220, herein referred to as Syed). Syed discloses a device (Figs 1-7) used in connection with at least one cable (100) having a conductive shield (126), wherein the device resists damage arising from possible collapse of the shielded cable assembly under strong compression forces (abstract). Specifically, with respect to claim 1, Syed discloses a device (Fig 3) comprising a conductive cable clamp (300) that clamps the periphery of the a cable (100, as shown in Fig 7) while conductively engaging the conductive shield (126) of the cable (100, Col 5, lines 39-42), wherein the cable clamp (300) is capable of preventing electromagnetic radiation from passing by the periphery of the cable (100, Col 2, lines 9-12). With respect to claim 2, Syed discloses that the cable clamp (300) includes a first conductive plate (306) and a second conductive plate (310), where each of the first and second plates (306 & 310) each comprise at least one groove (314 & 316

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respectively), wherein the first plate (306) is positioned against the second plate (310) so that the groove (314) is the first plate (306) and the groove (316) in the second plate (310) collectively from a hole (302) extending from one edge of the cable clamp (300) to an opposite edge of the cable clamp (Fig 3), wherein the hole (302) accommodates the cable (100) therein (as shown in Fig 7). With respect to claim 3, Syed discloses that each of the plates (306 & 310) each have a first major surface (middle surface at 400) and a second major surface (top surface at 318) that is parallel to the first major surface (at 400 as shown in Fig 4), wherein the first major surfaces has grooves (316) and the second major surface (at 318) is substantially flat and free of grooves (Fig 3). With respect to claim 4, Syed discloses that the second major surface (at 318) of the second plate (310) is substantially flat and free of grooves (Fig 3). With respect to claim 9, Syed discloses that each of the first and second plates (306 & 310) each comprise a plurality of grooves (left and right 314 & 316 respectively), wherein the first plate (306) is positioned against the second plate (310) so that the grooves (left and right 314) in the first plate (306) and the grooves (left and right 316) in the second plate (310) collectively from a parallel holes (left and right 302) extending from one edge of the cable clamp (300) to an opposite edge of the cable clamp (Fig 3), wherein the holes (left and right 302) accommodates the cables (100) therein (as shown in Fig 7). With respect to claim 10, Syed discloses that the cable clamp (300) is of a rectangular configuration having four contiguous flat surfaces (Fig 3). With respect to claim 11, Syed discloses that the first plate (306) is fixed to the second plate (310, Col 5, lines 45-50). With respect to claim 18, Syed discloses that the cable clamp (300) includes a conductive flexible fabric

(600) having a pattern thereof, wherein the pattern accommodates the cable (100) therein (Fig 6). With respect to claim 27, Syed discloses an electronic system (Fig 7) comprising at least one electrical subsystem comprising an electrically conductive system frame (500), wherein the frame (500) has an opening (502) therein, at least one cable (100) electrically coupled to an electrical component (not shown) and extending outside the frame (500) via the opening (502), wherein the cable (100) comprises a signal wire (102) having a conductive shield (126) surrounding the signal wire (102, Col 3, lines 50-65), wherein a conductive cable clamp (300) is disposed in the opening (502) and coupled to the frame (500, Col 6, 17-29), wherein the clamp (300) clamps the periphery of the a cable (100, as shown in Fig 7) while conductively engaging the conductive shield (126) of the cable (100, Col 5, lines 39-42), wherein the cable clamp (300) is capable of preventing electromagnetic radiation from passing by the periphery of the cable (100, Col 2, lines 9-12). With respect to claim 28, Syed discloses that the cable clamp (300) includes a first conductive plate (306) and a second conductive plate (310), where each of the first and second plates (306 & 310) each comprise at least one groove (314 & 316 respectively), wherein the first plate (306) is positioned against the second plate (310) so that the groove (314) is the first plate (306) and the groove (316) in the second plate (310) collectively form a hole (302) extending from one edge of the cable clamp (300) to an opposite edge of the cable clamp (Fig 3), wherein the hole (302) accommodates the cable (100) therein (as shown in Fig 7). With respect to claim 31, Syed discloses that the cable clamp (300) includes a conductive flexible fabric (600) having a pattern thereof, wherein the pattern accommodates the cable (100) therein

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(Fig 6). With respect to claim 39, Syed discloses a method of electrically coupling a first electrical component (not shown) disposed in a first subsystem (inside housing 500) with a second electrical component (not shown) disposed in a second subsystem (outside housing 500), while maintaining separate electromagnetic radiation boundaries of the first subsystem and the second subsystem (Col 6, lines 18-30), comprising providing a first electronic subsystem (Fig 7) having a first electrically conductive system frame (500) and a first electrical component (not shown) disposed inside of the first system frame (500), wherein the first system frame (500) has an opening (502) therein, providing a second electrical subsystem (not shown, however the second frame has the same configuration as the first frame 500, Cols 3 & 4, lines 66-68 & 1-25 respectively) having an second electrically conductive system frame (500) and a second electrical component (not shown) disposed inside of the second system frame (500), wherein the second system frame (500) has an opening (502) therein; electrically coupling the first electrical component to the second electrical component using a signal wire (102) of a common cable (100), wherein the cable (100) passes through the opening (502) in the first system frame (502) and the opening in the second system frame (502), the cable (100) having a conductive shield (126) surrounding the signal wire (102); exposing the conductive shield (126) in a first region (136 as shown in Fig 1) where the cable (100) passes through the opening (502) in the first system frame (500) and in a second region (138) where the cable (100) passes through the opening (502) in the second system frame (500, Col 4, lines 56-65); disposing a first conductive cable clamp (300) in the opening (502) in the first system frame (500) and disposing a second conductive cable

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clamp (300) in the opening (502) in the second system frame (not shown), electrically coupling the first cable clamp (300) to the first system frame (500), and electrically coupling the second cable clamp (300) to the second system frame (500, Col 6, lines 17-30); and clamping the first region (136) with the first cable clamp (300) so that the first cable clamp (300) conductively engages the conductive shield (126), and clamping the second region (138) with the second cable clamp (300) so that the second cable clamp (300) conductively engages the conductive shield (126), thereby preventing electromagnetic radiation from passing through the first opening and the second opening (Col 6, lines 17-30). With respect to claim 40, Syed discloses a method wherein the cable clamp (300) includes a first conductive plate (306) and a second conductive plate (310), where each of the first and second plates (306 & 310) each comprise at least one groove (314 & 316 respectively), wherein the first plate (306) is positioned against the second plate (310) so that the groove (314) in the first plate (306) and the groove (316) in the second plate (310) collectively form a hole (302) extending from one edge of the cable clamp (300) to an opposite edge of the cable clamp (Fig 3), wherein the hole (302) accommodates the cable (100) therein (as shown in Fig 7). With respect to claim 41, Syed discloses that the cable clamp (300) includes a conductive flexible fabric (600) having a pattern thereof, wherein the pattern accommodates the cable (100) therein (Fig 6).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

5. Claims 5-8, 12-17, 19-26, 29-30, 32-38, and 42-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Syed (Pat Num 6,545,220) in view of Damn et al (Pat Num 6,118,076, herein referred to as Damn). Syed discloses a device (Figs 1-7) used in connection with at least one cable (100) having a conductive shield (126), wherein the device resists damage arising from possible collapse of the shielded cable assembly under strong compression forces (abstract), as disclosed above with respect to claims 1, 27, and 39. Specifically, with respect to claim 38, Syed discloses the opening (502) in said system frame (500) comprises a first opening (left 502), and said system frame (500) further includes a second opening (right 502) that is contiguous with

the first opening (left 502), wherein the second opening (right 502) provides access into said system frame (500); wherein the frame (500) further comprising a conductive cover (600) positionable to cover the second opening (right 502); and wherein a front edge of said fabric (600) extends past a front edge of said upper plate (310) and a front edge of said lower plate (306, Fig 6), when the rear edge of the another one of said plates (310 & 306) and the rear of said fabric (600) so that said cover (500) and said cable clamp (300) collectively close both the first opening and the second opening (left and right 502 respectively, Figs 5-6).

However, Syed doesn't necessarily disclose the second major surface of the second plate having grooves (claim 5), nor the cable clamp having a third conductive plate having at least one groove, wherein the third plate is positioned against a second major surface of the second plate so that a further groove is the second plate and the groove in the third plate collectively form a further hole extending from a one edge of the cable clamp to an opposite edge of the cable clamp wherein the hole accommodates a further cable (claim 6), nor the third plate having a first and second major surface that are parallel wherein the third plate has grooves formed therein and second major surface of the third plate being substantially flat and being free of grooves (claim 7), nor the third plate having a first and the second major surface that are parallel wherein the third plate has grooves formed therein and the second major surface of the third plate having grooves (claim 8), nor the cable clamp includes two outermost conductive plates and at least one intermediate plate disposed between said outermost plates, each of said outermost plates having an inside major surface having a groove formed therein,

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said intermediate plate having opposing major surfaces each of which has a groove formed therein, wherein at least one of said outermost plates is positionable against said intermediate plate so that the groove in said at least one outermost plate and the groove in one of the major surfaces of said intermediate plate collectively form a hole extending from one edge of said cable clamp to an opposite edge of said cable clamp, the hole accommodating the cable therein (claim 12), nor another one of said outermost plates is positionable against said intermediate plate so that the groove in said another one of said outermost plate and the groove in another one of the major surfaces of said intermediate plate collectively form a further hole extending from the one edge of said cable clamp to the opposite edge of said cable clamp, the further hole accommodating another cable therein (claim 13), nor the outermost plates has an outside major surface that is substantially flat (claim 14), nor the cable clamp includes two outermost conductive plates and a plurality of intermediate plates disposed between said outermost plates, each of said outermost plates having an inside major surface having a groove formed therein, each of said intermediate plates having opposing major surfaces each of which has a groove formed therein, wherein one of said outermost plates is positionable against one of said intermediate plates so that the groove in said one outermost plate and the groove in one of the major surfaces of said one of said intermediate plates collectively form a hole extending from one edge of said cable clamp to an opposite edge of said cable clamp, the hole accommodating the cable therein (claim 15), nor the another one of said outermost plates is positionable against another one of said intermediate plates so that the groove in said another one of said

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outermost plates and the groove in another one of the major surfaces of said another one of said intermediate plates collectively form a further hole extending from the one edge of said cable clamp to the opposite edge of said cable clamp, the hole accommodating another cable therein (claim 16), nor each of said outermost plates has an outside major surface that is substantially flat (claim 17), nor the pattern is a star-shaped pattern formed in said fabric, the pattern including a plurality of evenly spaced slits radially extending outward from a center of the pattern, and wherein every two adjacent slits form a triangular flap (claim 18), nor the one of the slits extends to an edge of said fabric, to allow the cable to be inserted into the center of the pattern (claim 20), nor a plurality of the star-shaped patterns are formed in the fabric, and arranged in a row (claim 21), nor said fabric is adhered over a layer of foam (claim 22), nor the cable clamp including an upper and a lower rigid conductive plate, said conductive flexible fabric being clamped between said upper and lower plates (claim 23), nor the upper plate has a semicircular recess formed at an edge thereof, and said lower plate has a semicircular recess formed at an edge thereof, the recesses being positioned to correspond to a position of, so as to expose, the star-shaped pattern (claim 24), nor one of said plates has a rear flange, a rear edge of another one of said plates and a rear edge of said fabric abutting against the rear flange to position said plates and said fabric relative to each other (claim 25), nor a front edge of said fabric extends past a front edge of said upper plate and a front edge of said lower plate, when the rear edge of the another one of said plates and the rear edge of said fabric abut against the rear flange (claim 26), nor the at least one cable includes a plurality of cables, wherein said cable

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clamp includes first and second outermost conductive plates and an intermediate plate disposed between said outermost plates, each of said outermost plates having an inside major surface having a groove formed therein, said intermediate plate having opposing first and second major surfaces each of which has a groove formed therein, wherein said first outermost plate is positionable against the first major surface of said intermediate plate so that the groove in said first outermost plate and the groove in the first major surfaces of said intermediate plate collectively form a hole extending from one edge of said cable clamp to an opposite edge of said cable clamp, the hole accommodating one of said cables therein, and wherein said second outermost plate is positionable against the second major surface of said intermediate plate so that the groove in said second outermost plate and the groove in the second major surface of said intermediate plate collectively form a further hole extending from the one edge of said cable clamp to the opposite edge of said cable clamp, the further hole accommodating another one of said cables therein (claim 29), nor the at least one cable includes a plurality of cables, wherein said cable clamp includes first and second outermost conductive plates and a plurality of intermediate plates disposed between said outermost plates, each of said outermost plates having an inside major surface having a groove formed therein, each of said intermediate plates having opposing first and second major surfaces each of which has a groove formed therein, wherein said first outermost plate is positionable (claim 30), nor the a plurality of the star-shaped patterns are formed in the fabric, and arranged in a row (claim 34), nor the cable clamp including an upper and a lower rigid conductive plate, said conductive flexible fabric

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being clamped between said upper and lower plates (claim 35), nor the said upper plate has a semicircular recess formed at an edge thereof, and said lower plate has a semicircular recess formed at an edge thereof, the recesses being positioned to correspond to a position of, so as to expose, the star-shaped pattern (claim 36), nor one of said plates having a rear flange, a rear edge of another one of said plates and a rear edge of said fabric abutting against the rear flange to position the plates and the fabric relative to each other (claim 37), nor the cable clamp includes a conductive flexible fabric having at least one pattern formed therein, the pattern accommodating the cable therein (claim 42), nor the pattern is a star-shaped pattern formed in the fabric, the pattern including a plurality of evenly spaced slits radially extending outward from a center of the pattern, and wherein every two adjacent slits forms a triangular flap (claim 43).

Damn teaches an improvement in the sealing of a sealed cable closures (Figs 1-12) having openings for the entry of cables (Col 1, lines 5-10), wherein the cable device is easy to install, accommodates a significant range of cable sizes, and provides an excellent seal around the cable in a cable entry aperture in the casing of a closure (Col 1, lines 59-67). Specifically, with respect to claim 5, Damn teaches a device (Fig 10b) comprising a first plate (top plate) and a second plate (middle plate) wherein a second major surface (bottom surface of middle plate) of the second plate (middle plate) has grooves (Fig 10b). With respect to claim 6, Damn teaches that the cable clamp (7) has a third plate (bottom plate) having at least one groove (at 19), wherein the third plate (bottom plate) is positioned against a second major surface (bottom surface of middle

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plate) of the second plate (middle plate) so that a further groove of the second plate (middle plate) and the groove in the third plate (bottom plate) collectively form a further hole (15) extending from a one edge of the cable clamp (7) to an opposite edge of the cable clamp (7) wherein the hole (15) accommodates a further cable (137, Fig 10a).

With respect to claim 7, Damn teaches a third plate (bottom plate) having a first and second major surfaces (top and bottom surface of bottom plate) that are parallel (Fig 10b) wherein the third plate (bottom plate) has grooves (at 15) formed therein and second major surface (bottom surface of the bottom plate) of the third plate (bottom plate) being substantially flat and being free of grooves (Fig 10b). With respect to claim 8, Damn teaches that the third plate (bottom plate) having a first and the second major surface (top and bottom surfaces of bottom plate) that are parallel wherein the third plate (bottom plate) may have grooves formed therein and the second major surface (bottom surface of bottom plate) of the third plate (bottom plate) may have grooves (when additional plates are utilized, Col 5, lines 22-26). With respect to claim 12, Damn teaches a cable clamp (7) that includes two outermost conductive plates (top and bottom plates) and at least one intermediate plate (middle plate) disposed between said outermost plates (top and bottom plates), wherein each of said outermost plates (top and bottom plates) have an inside major surface having a groove formed therein (Fig 10b), said intermediate plate (middle plate) having opposing major surfaces (top and bottom surfaces of middle plate) wherein each of which has a groove formed therein (Fig 10b), wherein at least one of said outermost plates (top and bottom plates) is positionable against said intermediate plate (middle plate) so that the groove in said at

least one outermost plate (top and bottom plates) and the groove in one of the major surfaces of said intermediate plate (middle plate) collectively form a hole (15) extending from one edge of said cable clamp (7) to an opposite edge of said cable clamp (7), wherein the hole (15) accommodating a cable (137) therein (Figs 10a). With respect to claim 13, Damn teaches that another one of said outermost plates (bottom plate) is positionable against said intermediate plate (middle plate) so that the groove in said another one of said outermost plate (bottom plate) and the groove in another one of the major surfaces of said intermediate plate (middle plate) collectively form a further hole (15) extending from the one edge of said cable clamp (7) to the opposite edge of said cable clamp (7), the further hole (15) accommodating another cable (137) therein (Fig 10b). With respect to claim 14, Damn teaches that the outermost plates (bottom plate) has an outside major surface that is substantially flat (Fig 10b). With respect to claim 15, Damn teaches a cable clamp (7) that includes two outermost conductive plates (top and bottom plates) and at least one intermediate plate (middle plate) disposed between said outermost plates (top and bottom plates), wherein each of said outermost plates (top and bottom plates) have an inside major surface having a groove formed therein (Fig 10b), said intermediate plate (middle plate) having opposing major surfaces (top and bottom surfaces of middle plate) wherein each of which has a groove formed therein (Fig 10b), wherein at least one of said outermost plates (top and bottom plates) is positionable against said intermediate plate (middle plate) so that the groove in said at least one outermost plate (top and bottom plates) and the groove in one of the major surfaces of said intermediate plate (middle plate) collectively form a hole (15) extending

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from one edge of said cable clamp (7) to an opposite edge of said cable clamp (7), wherein the hole (15) accommodating a cable (137) therein (Figs 10a). With respect to claim 16, Damn teaches that another one of said outermost plates (bottom plate) is positionable against said intermediate plate (middle plate) so that the groove in said another one of said outermost plate (bottom plate) and the groove in another one of the major surfaces of said intermediate plate (middle plate) collectively form a further hole (15) extending from the one edge of said cable clamp (7) to the opposite edge of said cable clamp (7), the further hole (15) accommodating another cable (137) therein (Fig 10b). With respect to claim 14, Damn teaches that the outermost plates (bottom plate) has an outside major surface that is substantially flat (Fig 10b). With respect to claim 19, Damn teaches that plates (top, middle, and bottom plates) comprises a sealing material (19) that is positioned between the first, second, and third plates (top, middle, and bottom plates) comprises a pattern that may be any shape (Col 5, lines 63-67), wherein the pattern including a plurality of evenly spaced slits radially extending outward from a center of the pattern (Col 6, lines 1-5). With respect to claim 20, Damn teaches that the one of the slits extends to an edge of said sealing material (19), to allow the cable to be inserted into the center of the pattern (Col 6, lines 1-5). With respect to claim 21, Damn teaches that the plurality of the patterns are formed in the sealing material (19) and arranged in a row (Fig 6b). With respect to claim 22, Damn teaches that the sealing material (19) may be adhered over a layer of foam (Col 5, lines 56-59). With respect to claim 23, Damn teaches that the cable clamp (7) includes an upper and a lower rigid plate (top and bottom plates), wherein said sealing material (19)

is clamped between said upper and lower plates (top and bottom plates, Fig 6b). With respect to claim 24, Damn teaches that the upper plate (top plate) has a semicircular recess (at 15) formed at an edge thereof, and said lower plate (bottom plate) has a semicircular recess (at 15) formed at an edge thereof, the recesses (at 15) being positioned to correspond to a position of, so as to expose, the sealing material and the cable aperture (Fig 6b). With respect to claim 25, Damn teaches that one of said plates (top and bottom plates as shown in Fig 10b) has a rear flange, a rear edge of another one of said plates (top and bottom plates) and a rear edge of said sealing material (19) abutting against the rear flange to position said plates (top and bottom plates) and said sealing material (19) relative to each other (Fig 10a). With respect to claim 26, Damn teaches that a front edge of said sealing material (19 as shown in Fig 4) may extend past a front edge of said upper plate (top plate) and a front edge of said lower plate (bottom plate), when the rear edge of the another one of said plates (top plate) and the rear edge of said sealing material (19) abut against the rear flange (Fig 4). With respect to claim 29, Damn teaches at least one cable includes a plurality of cables (137), wherein said cable clamp (7) includes first and second outermost conductive plates (top and bottom plates) and an intermediate plate (middle plate) disposed between said outermost plates (top and bottom plates), each of said outermost plates (top and bottom plates) having an inside major surface (inside of top and bottom plates) having a groove (at 15) formed therein, said intermediate plate (middle plate) having opposing first and second major surfaces (top and bottom of middle plate) each of which has a groove (at 15) formed therein, wherein said first outermost plate (top plate) is positionable against

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the first major surface (top surface of middle plate) of said intermediate plate (middle plate) so that the groove (at 15) in said first outermost plate (top plate) and the groove (at 15) in the first major surfaces (top surface of middle plate) of said intermediate plate (middle plate) collectively form a hole (15) extending from one edge of said cable clamp (7) to an opposite edge of said cable clamp (7), wherein the hole (15) accommodates one of said cables (137) therein, and wherein said second outermost plate (bottom plate) is positionable against the second major surface (bottom surface of middle plate) of said intermediate plate (middle plate) so that the groove (at 15) in said second outermost plate (bottom plate) and the groove (at 15) in the second major surface (bottom surface) of said intermediate plate (middle plate) collectively form a further hole (15) extending from the one edge of said cable clamp (7) to the opposite edge of said cable clamp (7), wherein the further hole (15) accommodating another one of said cables therein (137, Fig 6b). With respect to claim 30, Damn teaches that said cable clamp (7) includes first and second outermost conductive plates (top and bottom plates) and may include a plurality of intermediate plates (middle plate) disposed between said outermost plates (top and bottom plates), each of said outermost plates (top and bottom plates) having an inside major surface (inside of top and bottom plates) having a groove (at 15) formed therein, said intermediate plate (middle plate) having opposing first and second major surfaces (top and bottom of middle plate) each of which has a groove (at 15) formed therein, wherein said first outermost plate (top plate) is positionable against the first major surface (top surface of middle plate) of said intermediate plate (middle plate) so that the groove (at 15) in said first outermost plate (top plate) and the groove

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(at 15) in the first major surfaces (top surface of middle plate) of said intermediate plate (middle plate) collectively form a hole (15) extending from one edge of said cable clamp (7) to an opposite edge of said cable clamp (7), wherein the hole (15) accommodates one of said cables (137) therein, and wherein said second outermost plate (bottom plate) is positionable against the second major surface (bottom surface of middle plate) of said intermediate plate (middle plate) so that the groove (at 15) in said second outermost plate (bottom plate) and the groove (at 15) in the second major surface (bottom surface) of said intermediate plate (middle plate) collectively form a further hole (15) extending from the one edge of said cable clamp (7) to the opposite edge of said cable clamp (7), wherein the further hole (15) accommodating another one of said cables therein (137, Fig 6b). With respect to claim 19, Damn teaches that plates (top, middle, and bottom plates) comprises a sealing material (19) that is positioned between the first, second, and third plates (top, middle, and bottom plates) comprises a pattern that may be any shape (Col 5, lines 63-67), wherein the pattern including a plurality of evenly spaced slits radially extending outward from a center of the pattern (Col 6, lines 1-5). With respect to claim 34, Damn teaches that the one of the slits extends to an edge of said sealing material (19), to allow the cable to be inserted into the center of the pattern (Col 6, lines 1-5). With respect to claim 35, Damn teaches that the cable clamp (7) includes an upper and a lower rigid plate (top and bottom plates), wherein said sealing material (19) is clamped between said upper and lower plates (top and bottom plates, Fig 6b). With respect to claim 36, Damn teaches that the upper plate (top plate) has a semicircular recess (at 15) formed at an edge thereof, and said lower plate

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(bottom plate) has a semicircular recess (at 15) formed at an edge thereof, the recesses (at 15) being positioned to correspond to a position of, so as to expose, the sealing material and the cable aperture (Fig 6b). With respect to claim 37, Damn teaches that one of said plates (top and bottom plates as shown in Fig 10b) has a rear flange, a rear edge of another one of said plates (top and bottom plates) and a rear edge of said sealing material (19) abutting against the rear flange to position said plates (top and bottom plates) and said sealing material (19) relative to each other (Fig 10a). With respect to claim 42, Damn teaches that plates (top, middle, and bottom plates) comprises a sealing material (19) that is positioned between the first, second, and third plates (top, middle, and bottom plates) comprises a pattern that may be any shape (Col 5, lines 63-67), wherein the pattern including a plurality of evenly spaced slits radially extending outward from a center of the pattern (Col 6, lines 1-5). With respect to claim 43, Damn teaches that the one of the slits extends to an edge of said sealing material (19), to allow the cable to be inserted into the center of the pattern (Col 6, lines 1-5).

With respect to claims 5-8, 12-17, 23-26, and 29-30, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art of cables at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Syed to comprise the three piece plate configuration as taught by Damn because Damn teaches that such a configuration provides an improvement in the sealing of a sealed cable closures (Figs 1-12) having openings for the entry of cables (Col 1, lines 5-10), wherein the cable device is easy to install, accommodates a significant range of cable sizes, and provides an excellent seal around the cable in a cable entry aperture in the casing of a closure (Col 1, lines 59-67).

With respect to claims 18-22, 35-37, 42-43, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art of cables at the time the invention was made to modify the sealing material (i.e. fabric) of Syed to comprise a star shape apertures since it has been held that a change in form cannot sustain patentability where involved is only extended application of obvious attributes from a prior art. *In re Span-Deck Inc. vs. Fab-Con Inc.* (CA 8, 1982) 215 USPQ 835 and it appears that Syed would perform equally well with or without the modification.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. They are Koegel et al (Pat Num 5,038,001), Long et al (Pat Num 5,281,762), Burnett et al (Pat Num 6,297,447), Dalton (Pat Num 5,083,929), Bouveret et al (Pat Num 6,031,185), Mulvihill (Pat Num 5,713,748), Jobin et al (Pat Num 5,794,897), Caldwell (Pat Num 4,201,433), Koss (Pat Num 5,122,068), Brusselmans et al (Pat Num 5,313,019), Cornu (Pat Num 6,194,659), and Napiorkowski et al (Pat Num 5,567,916), all of which disclose cable sealing and grounding devices.

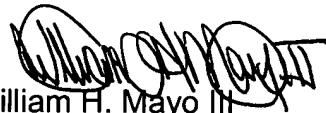
Communication

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William H. Mayo III whose telephone number is (571)-272-1978. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30am-6:00 pm (alternate Fridays off).

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dean Reichard can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext 31. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



William H. Mayo III
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2831

WHM III
September 19, 2004